

LEGACY

There was only a jigsaw puzzle of dry
ground;
A shroud of unfinished power lines
dangling in silence.
Shadow cows wandered
over broken fence pieces,
prodding memories of grass.
I asked a hungry man,
Where is the beautiful land I came to see?
This is her legacy,
he told me sadly.
The legend you seek is dead.
She was once virgin bride to the world.
Her dowry was a sea of zebra.
Her wildebeest thundered
like a summer storm.
She was jungle, mountain, and river.
Long ago her body throbbed
with blood and breath.
She was warm and alive.

We called her Africa.

Kathleen Malley

Reply to Weir: Unnecessary Fear, Nutrition, and Vegetarianism

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Professor Weir contends that "the vegetarian argument from unnecessary pain fails" because:

- (1) "the Empirical Argument from Nutrition equivocat[es] regarding what is meant by 'vegetarian,' 'adequate for human nutrition,' and 'unnecessary for nutrition,'"
- (2) "animals can be raised humanely and killed mercifully," and
- (3) "the *prima facie* obligation not to inflict pain is overridden by the nutritional risk of vegetarianism (especially veganism)."

Weir fails to establish any of these points as compelling criticisms of a moral obligation to become vegetarians. We shall discuss each of his arguments in turn.

The Empirical Argument from Nutrition

Weir begins his attack on the proposition that "a vegetarian diet is adequate for human nutrition" by claiming that attempting to justify it by referring to "the large numbers of vegetarians who are 'hale and thriving'" "obviously is an inductive hasty generalization, [because] the empirical fact that some vegetarians are healthy does not prove that all humans—or even most humans—will be healthy on a vegetarian diet." However, far from being obvious, this charge of fallacious reasoning is false.



DISCUSSION